X-Ray Machines at Airports in Madhya Pradesh

†873. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether X-ray machines for checking of luggage from security point of view are available at all the airports of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these machines are out of order at many airports;

(c) if so, since when; and

(d) what steps Government are taking for ensuring the safety aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) X-ray Baggage Inspection machines are available at all the operational airports in Madhya Pradesh i.e. Bhopal, Khajuraho, Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur airports.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In the last two years, a total number of 278 new X-ray machines have been deployed and installed at various airports in the country including the airports in Madhya Pradesh. As such, all the machines have been replaced with the latest state-of-art colour X-ray machines.

Operation of New Aircrafts

874. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the details to acquire new Aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when they will be ready for operational purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its 61st meeting held on 27th March, 2002 approved the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 from Airbus Industries during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 at a net cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report has been submitted by Indian Airlines to the Government. Pre-PIB meetings were held on 25th April and 12th June, 2003 on the subject, wherein it was recommended that the proposal may be referred to PIB for consideration. No firm target date for completion of the acquisition process can be indicated at this stage, since the extant procedures for consideration of public investment proposals will have to be followed.

Air India also has plans to acquire new aircraft in order to phase out the older aircrafts, rationalize its fleet and expand capacity. No final proposal has been received from Air India for Government approval.

Study on traffic growth

875. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of aircrafts owned and operated by Indian Airlines at present;

(b) the number of aircrafts which have outlived their normal lives and require replacement;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for purchase of 43 aircrafts at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crores instead of obtained them on wet/dry lease;

(d) whether any study on traffic growth has been undertaken which would justify purchase of these aircrafts instead of taking them on wet/ dry lease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Indian Airlines has a fleet of 47 owned aircraft.

(b) There is no prescribed upper age for commercial aircraft. However, the aircraft have a design economic life beyond which the operation becomes uneconomical due to the increasing maintenance cost.